

Virginia RULES

Teens Learn & Live the Law

Teaching Law-Related Education to Virginia Youth



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What is Virginia Rules?

Virginia specific law-related education program for youth in the Commonwealth

Web-based and interactive curriculum with comprehensive website (www.virginiarules.org) that is updated as laws change and needs/resources are identified

Lesson content is correlated with specific grade-level SOL requirements

Program Goals

- Educate young Virginians about the law
- Help participants develop skills needed to make sound decisions and to avoid breaking laws
- Encourage “active citizenship” in schools / communities among participants

Why Teach This Curriculum?

- ***Informed youth helps to reduce and prevent incidents and criminal activity***
- Lesson-by-lesson
- Actual language of standards provided
- Interactive format
- Provides a tool to meet teaching objectives
- Endorsed by Secretary of Education

Where should Virginia Rules be taught?

- Classrooms
 - Tie-ins with health and PE, civics / government, family / consumer sciences
- After-school programs
- Diversion programs
- Church / civic organizations
- ANYWHERE THERE ARE TEENS!

Virginia Rules Modules

- There are 25 Lesson Plans
- Modules can be used individually or together

First 6 Lesson Plans focus on justice systems

1. Introduction to the Laws in Virginia
2. Virginia's Judicial System
3. Virginia's Juvenile Justice System
4. Introduction to a Virginia Courtroom
5. Criminal Law Basics
6. Civil Law Basics

Additional Lesson Topics

- Crimes Against Persons
- Property Crimes
- Student Responsibilities
- Keeping Your Drivers License
- Child Labor Laws*
- Family Relationships and the Law
- Teens and Crime Prevention
- Gangs (2 modules)*
- Teens and Violence
- Dating Violence
- Alcohol and Tobacco
- Drugs – General
- Prescription Drugs*
- Technology and You
- Victims' Rights
- Bullying

2016 Updates to Existing Modules

- Legal Rights of Juveniles: Background on In Re Gault
- Family Relationships and the Law: Legal age to marry addition
- Alcohol and Tobacco: Changes and additions to both alcohol and tobacco sections
- Teens and Violence: Stalking addition

New Modules in 2016

Recently added

- Heroin
- Viewing guide for “Heroin: The Hardest Hit”

Other Upcoming Modules

- Give It / Get It: Mutual Respect Between Teens and Law Enforcement – on the website in the next two weeks!

What other topics you would like to see added to the Virginia Rules Program?

Virginia Rules By the Numbers (2016)

304 new instructor accounts created on the virginiarules.org website this fiscal year (+ 22% from previous year)

FY15 134 presentations to 17,039 students

FY16 565 presentations to 45,731 students (this number is not final – it may increase as instructors continue submitting data reports for the 2015/16 school year)

322% increase in the number of presentations

168% increase in the number of students

Also New in 2016...

- To accompany our new Prescription Drug module, we also added an interactive e-learning module on the Virginia Rules website and an accompanying learning game.
- Similar online content is in development for our Heroin module and our Online Safety/Digital Citizenship module, “Technology and You”.

VR Statistics – FY 2015 (con't)

Most frequently taught modules (per instructors)

1. Criminal Law Basics
2. Gang Video
3. Introduction to Juvenile Justice in Virginia
4. Student Responsibilities
5. Technology and You
6. Alcohol and Tobacco
7. Legal Rights of Juveniles
8. Introduction to Virginia's Judicial System
9. Crimes Against Persons
10. Introduction to Laws in Virginia

Instructor Roles and Responsibilities

- Be fully oriented to the VR Program, its purposes, its components, and how the program operates.
- Examine the school DCV data to identify problem areas and select lessons to address problems identified.
- Collaborate with educators to implement in ways tailored to the needs of schools/communities.
- Be alert to “teachable moments.”

Instructor Roles and Responsibilities

- Carefully prepare for delivering lessons
- Provide information to the Office of the Attorney General
- Stay alert to emerging issues and share your best ideas and suggestions with the Virginia Rules Program.

Lesson Plans

Lesson goal:

To provide an introductory overview of offenses involving property, including crimes in which property is destroyed and crimes in which property is stolen or taken against the owner's will.

Students will learn:

- what crimes against property entail
- what types of crimes involve taking property
- what types of crimes involve destroying property

Suggested grade levels:

High school students and advanced middle school students

Materials:

Virginia Rules "Property Crimes," student handout

Before the lesson:

1. Read the entire lesson plan.
2. Make copies of handouts and any activity/worksheets used in the lesson.
3. Obtain locality- and community-specific information crime against persons.
4. Give thought to appropriate local examples of the problems/issues discussed in the lesson.

- Lesson goal
- Students will learn . . .
- Suggested grade level
- Materials
- Before the lesson prep

Lesson Plans

- Introduction
 - Instructional guidance
- Activities/ Worksheets
 - Designed to make teaching the material easy
- Conclusion/Review Activity
- Review and Recap
- Pre-/Post-Test
- Basic PowerPoint

Resources Lists

- Most credible resources
- Organized by audience and by topic
 - For Instructors
 - For Parents
 - For Students

Questions?

For additional information or materials,
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